

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO/SB/08 as required by the Examiner. Applicants state that, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(f), they made a *bona fide* attempt to comply with the requirements of Section 1.98, but part of the required content was inadvertently omitted. Applicants calculate no fee to be required in connection with the submission of the Information Disclosure Statement; however, if the Examiner believes otherwise, the required fee may be charged to Deposit Account No. 25-0115. Consideration of these references is respectfully requested.

With respect to the drawing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the requirement to add the legend "PRIOR ART" to Figure 1. When taken in conjunction with Figure 2, it is apparent that Figure 1 displays the inventive embodiment rather than the prior art and it is believed that a labeling of Figure 1 in the manner suggested by the Examiner will mislead the reader rather than clarify the boundary between the prior art and the present invention. Reconsideration of this requirement is respectfully requested.

On the other hand, Applicants agree with the Examiner regarding the necessity of including a figure showing a lens with a variation in thickness according to the radius of the lens as set forth in claim 22. Applicants propose to add Figure 14, enclosed, along with text describing the figure and noting its similarity in arrangement to the embodiment of Figure 10.

Applicants also submit herewith an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b). In addition, Applicants have amended page 8, line 29, to adopt the American English spelling of the word "fulfill."

Claim 1 was amended under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for lack of clarity; claim 5 was objected to for failure to include antecedent basis for the words "the ejection" in claim 3. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the lack of clarity and provide an antecedent basis for the language in claim 5.

amended
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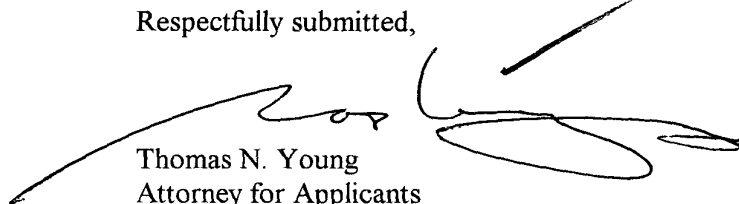
Going now to rejections based on prior art, claims 1, 15 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Vaissie et al. and reconsideration is requested. While it is true that the diagram of the Vaissie et al. patent shows a circular disc-like lens 4 with light emitters 9 positioned around the circumference of the lens, the Vaissie et al. lens does not “collimate light from points in a focal circumference around the disc” as required by claim 1. Instead, the lens refracts light passing through generally perpendicularly to its plane in the usual way. The text of Vaissie et al. makes it clear that the LEDs 9 emit light not into the plane of the lens but, rather, toward the hot mirror 5; see column 3, lines 17-19 and 48-52. In any event, the revisions to claim 1 increase the apparent differences between the subject matter claimed in that claim and the disclosure of Vaissie et al. This would also appear to overcome the rejection to claim 15.

With respect to claim 22, Applicants accept the Examiner’s statement that the lens shown in Figure 3 of Vaissie et al. varies in thickness, assuming that the Examiner does not equate thickness to “radius.” This, of course, is true of all lenses. However, as explained above, the Vaissie et al. lens does not refract light traveling in its plane and there is no reason to suppose that it will collimate light entering from the circumference. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s statement that claims 2-14 and 16-18 are allowable. Applicants have declined the invitation to rewrite these claims and present them in independent form in view of Applicants’ arguments concerning the allowability of claim 1 set forth above.

If, after amending the application as requested above, the Examiner has questions, comments, or unresolved issues, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned counsel is invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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